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JUN 20 1950

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MAY 15, 1950

No. 61

RALEIGH, N. C.

MAY 1, 1950 GENERAL FARM REPORT

MAY 1 CROP OUTLOOK UNFAVORABLE

The first two weeks of April were unseasonably cool and the last of the second week (April 13-15) brought temperatures to the lowest point since 1943 for this time of year.

However, the cold air was dry and most crop damage resulted from freezes, instead of frost. Temperatures were in the 20's in all areas.

Rainfall during the month was limited to light scattered showers and temperatures during the last week of April averaging 4 to 10 degrees above normal aggravated the already dry soil conditions.

Transplanting of tobacco prior to May 1 was still not under way except in a few Border Belt counties. Plant supplies in the Border Belt counties are generally adequate to meet local needs, but it is expected that very few will be available for shipment outside the area. In the Eastern Belt, some counties are anticipating that local supplies are 50 percent below needs. In the Middle and Old Belts, the plant supply outlook is better than last year but there is much concern in some counties that supplies will not be adequate.

Wheat in the Piedmont and Mountain counties is mostly in fair to good condition with some freeze damage

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RYE PRODUCTION DOWN

May 1 prospects for rye in North Carolina point to a production of 178,000 bushels. Such a production would mean a yield of 10.5 bushels per acre from the currently-estimated 17,000 acres to be harvested for for grain. Production in 1949 was 200,000 bushels for an average yield 10.5 bushels per acre. The 10-year average production is 389,000 bushels with an average yield of 11.0 bushels.

Production prospects for the Nation at almost 21 million bushels compares with nearly 19 million bushels produced in 1949 and the 10-year average of 32 million bushels.

RECORD APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

Production of milk in North Carolina during April totaled 144 million pounds compared with 132 million pounds for March and 137 million pounds for April a year ago. Milk production for April this year is the highest of record for this particular month. Although the total number of cows on farms during April is not a record high, a slight increase in numbers over last month combined with a production per cow at the record level for April has resulted in record production for the month.

Milk production per cow in herds during April averaged 385 pounds-an increase of 31 pounds from March production and equal to the April record set in 1949.

The average number of milk cows on farms in North Carolina during April totaled 374,000 head compared with 373,000 head the previous month.

The condition of pastures declined considerably from that of a month ago in practically all areas of the state, however, the carrying capacity of most pastures was not seriously reduced.

INDICATED PEACH CROP SECOND LOWEST OF RECORD

The 1950 peach crop in North Carolina is estimated at 365,000 bushels on the basis of May 1 conditions. This is the smallest crop since 1943 and the second smallest crop of record. Production in 1943 amounted to 252,000 bushels. Production during 1949 totaled 1,428,000 bushels and the 1939-48 average production is 2,167,000 bushels (see table below).

Freezing weather on three occasions during April is responsible for the small peach crop. The crop in nearby states was also severely damaged.

PEACH PRODUCTION

STATE	AVERAGE 1939-48	1949	IND. 1950
THOUSAND BUSHELS			
N. C.	2,167	1,428	365
S. C.	3,789	2,340	702
GA.	5,044	2,040	1,040
FLA.	89	66	63
ALA.	1,400	792	550
MISS.	871	518	455
ARK.	2,203	2,412	1,800
LA.	302	265	240
OKLA.	444	679	360
TEX.	1,743	2,400	1,247
10 STATES	18,052	12,940	6,822

THE STRAWBERRY CROP GOES TO MARKET



TOBACCO PRODUCTION - 1948 and 1949
Acreage, Yield, Production and Value
All Flue-cured Tobacco and North Carolina Burley Tobacco

PRODUCING STATE	TYPE NO.	ACREAGE HARVESTED		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION		AV. PRICE PER LB. REC'D BY FARMERS		VALUE OF PRODUCTION	
		1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
		ACRES		POUNDS		THOUSAND POUNDS		CENTS		THOUSAND DOLLARS	
FLUE-CURED:											
VIRGINIA.....	11	87,000	92,000	1,230	1,095	107,010	100,740	49.9	45.9	53,398	46,240
NORTH CAROLINA.....	11	233,000	240,000	1,190	1,070	277,270	256,800	49.8	46.9	138,080	120,439
TOTAL OLD BELT.....	11	320,000	332,000	1,201	1,077	384,280	357,540	49.8	46.6	191,478	166,679
TOTAL EASTERN N.C. BELT..	12	290,000	304,000	1,285	1,245	372,650	378,480	49.5	48.8	184,462	184,698
NORTH CAROLINA.....	13	71,000	77,000	1,265	1,250	89,460	96,250	51.3	49.4	45,983	47,548
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	13	104,000	111,000	1,265	1,325	131,560	147,075	50.3	49.0	66,175	72,067
TOTAL S. C. BELT.....	13	175,000	188,000	1,263	1,294	221,020	243,325	50.7	49.2	112,068	119,615
TOTAL GA.-FLA. BELT....	14	98,800	111,400	1,130	1,213	111,634	135,163	47.4	40.3	52,955	54,519
TOTAL ALL FLUE-CURED....	11-14	883,800	935,400	1,233	1,191	1,089,584	1,114,508	49.6	47.2	540,963	525,511
TOTAL N.C. FLUE-CURED...	11-13	594,000	621,000	1,239	1,178	739,380	731,530	49.8	48.2	368,040	352,685
TOTAL N. C. BURLEY.....	31	10,300	10,800	1,680	1,400	17,304	15,552	46.3	43.4	8,012	6,750

NORTH CAROLINA 1949 TOBACCO PRODUCTION LOWEST SINCE 1943

Total production of flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina during 1949 was the lowest since 1943. Production last year amounted to 731,530,000 pounds, or about 1 percent less than production in 1948. Production in 1943 totaled 542,200,000 pounds.

Total acreage in 1949, however, was up by about 4.5 percent - 621,000 acres in 1949 compared with 594,000 acres in 1948. From this it can be readily seen that the smaller production in 1949 was due entirely to to lower yields.

The average yield of type 11 or Old Belt tobacco at 1,070 pounds was 120 pounds under 1948, whereas type 12 or Eastern Belt yield was down only 40 pounds from last year to 1,285 pounds. Border Belt or type 13 yield at 1,250 pounds was only 10 pounds below that for 1948.

Factors attributing to lower yields, particularly in northeastern and Piedmont counties, were plant supplies being insufficient to make adequate follow-ups on resetting possible and somewhat variable weather conditions during most of the growing season.

The 1949 crop is valued at \$352,685,000 compared with \$368,040,000 in 1948. The total value of last years flue-cured crop is the lowest since 1945.

An average of 48.2 cents per pound was received for tobacco sold in 1949 compared with 49.8 in 1948.

North Carolina's burley crop totaled 15,552,000 pounds in 1949 - 10 percent less than in 1948. An average yield of 1,440 pounds per acre was realized last year compared with 1,680 in 1948. The yield for 1949 was the lowest of the past five years. Low yields last year were caused in part by excessive early season rainfall, irregular stands and a generally erratic growing season. Growers received an average of 43.4 cents per pound for their 1949 crop compared with 46.3 cents in 1948.

EGG PRODUCTION RISES SEASONALLY

Production of eggs on North Carolina farms during April totaled 125.8 million, 4.8 million over production during the previous month but 1.2 million below production during April a year ago.

About 7,356,000 layers were on Tar Heel farms during the month, a decrease of 6 percent from the 7,800,000 layers on hand during March but only 8,000 less than the number on farms in the State during April of 1949.

HAYS AND PASTURES POOR

Hay crops for early harvest in the State were in below-average condition as of May 1, and at 75 percent of normal. Prospects pointed toward much smaller yields than last year, when on the same date the condition was 88 percent of normal. Cold and dry weather conditions were contributing factors toward the poor prospects. Very little cutting of alfalfa and grain hays was in progress during late April and early May. Lespedeza for hay also showed signs of damage as a result of dry conditions.

CONDITION OF OATS POOR

The condition of North Carolina oats crop as of May 1 was considerably below normal. Percentage wise, reports from farmers indicated that the crop was about 76 percent of normal as compared with last year's May 1 condition of 86 percent. The average for the oats is 81 percent. The poor condition of the crop resulted largely from freezing weather on numerous occasions during March and early April, followed by unusually dry weather during April.

For the ten major producing states in the south, the May 1 condition of 62 percent was also somewhat below average, comparing with a condition of 81 percent on the same date last year and the 10-year average 70 percent.

1950 WHEAT PRODUCTION IN N. C. ABOUT SAME AS 1949

Production prospects as of May 1 indicate that a wheat crop of 5,814,000 bushels will be harvested in North Carolina this year. A crop of this size would be 29,000 bushels more than production last year and 995,000 bushels less than the 1939-48 average.

It is estimated that 401,000 acres will be harvested as compared with 445,000 acres in 1949 and the 1939-48 average of 450,000 acres. May 1 conditions indicated a yield of 14.5 bushels per acre. This compares with a yield of 13.0 bushels last year and the 10-year average yield of 15.1 bushels.

Yield prospects were no doubt reduced by inadequate soil moisture and freezing weather during April. Dry weather prevented the crop from fully utilizing the benefits of top-dressing. The Atlas variety received the least damage from the April freezes. Enough seed is expected from this year's seeding of the Atlas variety to seed most of the 1951 crop. General rains received since May 1 have been very beneficial to the wheat crop.

The total U. S. wheat production is estimated at 689,595,000 bushels. This is 212,073,000 bushels, or 24 percent, below the crop of last year and the smallest crop since 1943.

LARGE HAY STOCKS

As of May 1 there were an estimated 377,000 tons of all hay from the 1949 crop on farms in North Carolina. This compares with 309,000 tons a year ago and the 1939-48 average of 271,000 tons. The current large on-farm supplies of hay can be largely attributed to the high utilization of pastures for livestock feeding during the winter and the record production of the crop in 1949.

For the Nation, on-farm hay stocks were about 1.5 percent below last year.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND VALUE OF CROPS, 1949 PRELIMINARY

CROPS	UNIT	PROD- UCTION	USED FOR SEED		FED TO LIVE- STOCK	FOR USE IN FARM HOUSEHOLD	SOLD	SEASON'S AV. PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS	VALUE OF PRODUCT- ION	VALUE OF PRODUCTS USED IN HOUSE- HOLD	VALUE OF SALES
			TOTAL	ON FARM WHERE GROWN							
		(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	DOLLARS	THOUSAND DOLLARS		
WHEAT 1/.....	BU.	5,785	652	567	1,331	696	3,191	2.01	11,628	1,399	6,414
RYE.....	BU.	200	133	32	70	4	94	2.91	402	8	189
CORN, ALL PURPOSES.	BU.	75,565	1/	-	1/ 59,693	1,920	13,952	1.25	94,456	2,400	17,440
OATS.....	BU.	11,100	1/	-	1/ 7,881	-	3,219	2/ .80	8,880	-	2,575
BARLEY.....	BU.	900	1/	-	1/ 702	-	198	2/ 1.16	1,044	-	230
COTTON.....	BALE	465	-	-	-	-	-	5/ .289	67,244	-	-
COTTONSEED.....	TONS	197	-	-	-	-	166	42.10	8,294	-	7,368
HAY, ALL.....	TONS	1,395	-	-	1,283	-	112	28.50	39,758	-	3,192
LESPEDEZA, SEED....	LB.	42,900	-	16,700	-	-	26,200	8.10	3,475	-	2,122
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS	BU.	3,960	593	326	190	-	3,444	2/ 1.95	7,722	-	6,716
COWPEAS, FOR PEAS..	BU.	104	81	61	8	10	25	4.00	416	40	100
PEANUTS, PICKED AND THRESHED.....	LB.	236,000	3/20,740	16,385	708	2,520	216,387	10.7	25,252	270	23,153
IRISH POTATOES, ALL	BU.	7,869	732	110	315	1,950	4/ 5,494	1.35	10,623	2,632	7,417
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	5,876	348	261	1,410	2,035	2,170	2.15	12,633	4,375	4,666
SORGHUM GRAIN.....	BU.	525	1/	-	1/ 394	-	131	2/ 1.20	630	-	157
SORGHUM SIRUP.....	GAL.	720	-	-	-	401	319	1.90	1,368	-	606

1/ Seed not shown separately, combined with "Fed to Livestock".

2/ Includes an allowance for quantities of unredemmed loans and purchased agreement deliveries valued at the average loan rate per bushel by states.

3/ The difference between total seed and used on farms where grown represents peanuts purchased for seed and duplicated under "Sold".

4/ Consists of potatoes sold and to be sold for food, seed, feed processing and all purchases by the Government under price support program.

5/ Season's average price to May 1, 1950

N. C. CROPS IN 1949

The above table shows production and a general disposition break-down of principal crops grown in North Carolina in 1949. In addition, average prices received and values are shown. Similar information is shown for tobacco on the preceding page.

IRISH POTATO PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

Production of Commercial early Irish potatoes in North Carolina as of May 1 is estimated at 4,320,000 bushels, compared with 5,040,000 bushels harvested in 1949 and the 1939-48 average of 5,182,000 bushels. Acres for harvest is placed at 24,000. This acreage is the same as the acreage harvested last year, but 29 percent less than the 1939-48 average.

Current prospects point to a yield of 180 bushels per acre, which is 30 bushels below the yield harvested last year, but 26 bushels above average. Weather conditions during March and April were generally unfavorable to the growth of Irish potatoes. Harvesting of this year's crop in the earlier areas is expected to get under way around June 1, which is about a week to ten days later than normal.

The California commercial crop is currently expected to produce 30,-400,000 bushels or about 1 percent greater than last year's production. An estimated yield of 400 bushels per acre is forecast from the 76,000 acres for harvest.

Total production of late spring commercial early Irish potatoes in the United States is estimated at 40,242,000 bushels, comparing with 40,731,000 bushels produced in 1949 and the 10-year average of 33,461,000 bushels.

STATE COTTON INCOME DOWN SHARPLY IN 1949

The final cotton report for the season places North Carolina's 1949 cotton production at 465,000 bales (500 lbs. gross weight). This is about 31 percent below the bumper 1948 crop of 678,000 bales but 3 percent above 1947 production.

Cottonseed production from the 1949 crop totaled 197,000 tons, compared with 282,000 tons from the previous year's crop.

The combined value of North Carolina's cotton and cottonseed produced during the year totaled 75,-538,000, a drop of 38 percent from 1948. The value of the 1949 lint crop is estimated at \$67,244,000.

The 860,000 acres of cotton harvested in the state last year was an increase of 17 percent over the 737,000 acres harvested in 1948 and was the largest acreage harvested in North Carolina since 1937.

The U. S. 1949 cotton crop of 16,127,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight was the largest crop produced since 1937, and the fourth largest crop on record. The crop was 8 percent above the 1948 production of 14,877,000 bales, and 43 percent more than the ten-year average of 11,306,000 bales.

The 1949 lint yield per acre of

283.9 pounds was 27.3 pounds below the 1948 record yield of 311.2 pounds, but 30 pounds above the 10-year average.

Estimated acreage in cultivation July 1, 1949 amounted to 27,719,000 acres. This is about 19 percent above the 23,264,000 acres in 1948, 26 percent more than the 1938-47 average, and the highest acreage since 1937. Abandonment was about average at 1.8 percent, leaving 27,230,000 acres harvested, compared with 22,921,000 acres harvested in 1948.

The value of the 1949 crop of cotton lint is computed at \$2,262,779,-000 based on the average price to May 1, 1950. This is only slightly higher than last year's value of \$2,260,089,000.

The value of cottonseed ginned from the 1949 crop is \$286,965,000 down 28 percent from a year ago. With a sharp decline in the value of cottonseed, the combined value of lint and seed was \$2,549,744,000, about 4 percent below the total value of the 1948 crop.

Production of American-Egyptian cotton in 1949 totaled 4,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight compared with 3,600 bales in 1948.

NORTH CAROLINA FINAL COTTON SUMMARY

ITEMS	UNIT	1948 1/	1949
ACRES HARVESTED.....	ACRES	737,000	860,000
YIELD PER ACRE (LINT).....	LBS.	440	259
PRODUCTION (LINT).....	BALES 2/	678,000	465,000
AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED (LB.).....	CENTS	30.68	28.9
VALUE OF PRODUCTION (LINT).....	DOLS.	103,951,000	67,244,000
PRODUCTION (COTTONSEED).....	TONS	282,000	197,000
AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED (TON).....	DOLS.	60.30	42.10
VALUE OF PRODUCTION (COTTONSEED)...	DOLS.	17,005,000	8,294,000
VALUE OF PRODUCTION (LINT & SEED)...	DOLS.	120,956,000	75,538,000

1/ Revised

2/ 500 pounds gross weight bales

FARM REPORT

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MAY 15, 1950

FARM REPORT

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COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER INCREASES

Commercial slaughter in North Carolina for March increased in numbers over February slaughter for all species except hogs. The number of hogs slaughtered during March was the same as for the preceding month but in liveweight slaughtered, all species showed an increase.

Compared with March a year ago, fewer calves were slaughtered in the state, cattle and hog slaughter increased and sheep and lamb slaughter showed no change.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER*, MARCH, 1949 AND 1950

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVELWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVELWEIGHT	
	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS	THOUS. LBS	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS	THOUS. LBS
CATTLE.....	5.9	6.9	4,848	5,778	1,542.0	1,479.3	1,476,547	1,421,531
CALVES.....	8.1	5.8	1,197	902	1,039.2	989.3	175,827	171,583
HOGS.....	29.0	31.0	6,532	7,739	5,378.6	6,059.5	1,290,667	1,397,831
SHEEP & LAMBS.....	.1	.1	9	9	1,029.2	1,019.6	100,928	104,371

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

APRIL WEATHER SUMMARY

The weather during April, 1950, was extremely variable, particularly with respect to temperature. On two occasions during the first 15 days extremely cold air flowing across the State from the North and Northwest sent temperatures tumbling to record breaking low levels. The 6th was an unusually cold day with the temperature getting no higher than the 30's in the Mountains and the 40's and low 50's elsewhere. Below freezing temperatures occurred at most places on the 7th, 14th, 15th and 16th. A pronounced change to warmer followed during the final two weeks of April. Temperatures

in the 80's were almost a daily occurrence after the 23rd and several 90's were reported in the Piedmont and Coastal Plains. Average temperatures for the month ranged from about normal to nearly two degrees below.

Precipitation totals for April were from one to two inches less than longtime averages. Of most importance, however, was the almost complete absence of significant rainfall for a three-week period. Scattered thundershower activity during the last few days of April and the first of May brought relief to the parched soil at most places in the State.

MAY 1 CROP OUTLOOK (Continued)

noticeable in most areas. In the Southeastern counties, freezes, dry weather, rust and mildew combined have made the outcome of the wheat crop doubtful. Due to the dry weather, oats are heading up short and growth of spring oats is much below normal.

Corn planting is well advanced in most areas of the state, with some fields up to good stands. first cultivation is in progress in some early planted fields in Eastern counties.

By May 1, peanut planting was getting under way in some counties, and limited plantings of soybeans were being made.

Dry soil conditions in many areas delayed cotton planting and very little cotton was up on May 1. Lack of moisture has caused the seed to rot before coming up in some areas and replanting will be necessary.

By May 1, pastures were also showing the effect of continued dry weather. In some of the Eastern counties, carrying capacity was only 50 percent of normal but in other areas of the state, the damage was not serious.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING APRIL, 1950

